

Department of State TELEGRAM

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13
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-26 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INFE-00 PC-04 AID-20 FBO-01

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 M-03 OC-06

OPR-02 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-10 SCS-03 RSR-01 MC-02 /147 W
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0 170415Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAGUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 4198

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINS, AF

SUBJ: ATTEMPTED COUP - SITREP 1

REF: KABUL 5168 (NOTAL) ✓

1. WE STILL HAVE NO RPT NO AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ABOUT ATTEMPTED COUP. RADIO AFGHANISTAN NOW RPT NOW BROADCASTING MARTIAL MUSIC INTERSPERSED WITH "THIS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, STAY OFF THE STREETS AND DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SOLDIERS". FOLLOWING REPRESENTS GLEANINGS FROM VARIOUS OBSERVERS AMERICAN AND AFGHAN. SPORADIC SMALL ARMS FIRE HEARD INSIDE PALACE GROUNDS AS LATE AS 0700 HOURS LOCAL. EMBASSY GATE GUARD INFORMED BY ARMY OFFICER THAT "DAUD (FORMER STRONG MAN PM AND COUSIN OF KING) IN CHARGE AND ALL OF ROYAL FAMILY ARRESTED". USUALLY WELL INFORMED SOURCE STATES ABDUL WALI (KING'S SON-IN-LAW

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AND COMMANDER ARMY CENTRAL FORCES) WHOSE HOUSE BADLY DAMAGED BY GUN FIRE (REFTEL) HAS BEEN ARRESTED; SAME SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT MINDEF TAKEN INTO CUSTODY (REFTEL).

2. HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE FIGHT BETWEEN POLICE AND ARMY OBSERVED BY LOCAL EMPLOYEE ABOUT 0500 HOURS AT DEMAZANG CIRCLE WHICH IS LOCATION TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL CIVIL PRISON. AIR ATTACHE DRIVING THROUGH DEMAZANG OBSERVED ONE STAR GENERAL BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY SPECIAL FORCES TROOPS (PARATROOPS) AT DEMAZANG.

3. PRINCE DAUD OBSERVED BY EMBOFF GREETING WELL WISHERS AT HIS PERSONAL RESIDENCE AT 0745. UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THAT PRINCE DAUD NOW IN POWER AT ABOUT 0745 HOURS LOCAL.

4. NO RPT NO EVIDENCE ANY FOREIGN ELEMENTS INVOLVED. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT ON STREETS AT REDUCED LEVEL. ROAD BLOCKS AROUND PALACE AND FEW OTHER KEY POINTS. EMBOFF ALSO OBSERVED LARGE NUMBER OF POLICE AT DEMAZANG UNDER MILITARY GUARD AND BUSES BEING STOPPED BY MILITARY WHO REMOVED ALL POLICE OFFICERS ON BOARD.
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